

Appl. No.: 10/087,892
Reply to Office Action of: October 29, 2004

Remarks

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1-31 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 1-31 are rejected under a 35 U.S.C. 103 (a). Claims one and 14 are hereby amended and claims 30, 31 are hereby canceled.

Claims 1-31 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-34 of US patent 6, 791, 213. The Examiner contends that although conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patently distinct from each other because claims 1, 14 of the application are not patently distinct from claims 1, 16, 23 of US patent 6, 791, 213. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended as will be more fully described below and are believed to be patently distinct from the claims of US patent 6, 791, 213. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ivie in view of Jennison. Independent claim 1 has been amended to add the limitations of canceled claims 30. Claim 30 was rejected under alternate obviousness rejection grounds. The rejection of claim 1 and the pending claims 2-13 is therefore moot. Independent claim 14 has been amended to add the limitations of canceled claim 31. Claim 31 was rejected under alternate obviousness rejection grounds. The rejection of claim 14 and dependent claims 15-29 is therefore moot.

Claims 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 USC (a) as being unpatentable over Ivie in view of Jennison and further in view of Prohs. Although Prohs suggest the use of circuitry in a supervisory station connection controller to include an incoming transient-surge suppressor, it

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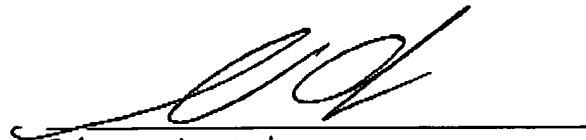
does not teach nor suggest combining search suppression or sensing and control services within a module in combination with the other features of amended claims 1 and 14 namely, a central distribution panel having at least one input for receiving a service, one output being connected to a room of the premises and a central region having a plurality of module receiving connectors each having first and second conductors. There is no suggestion in Prohs or the other references to combine these features in such a signal distribution system having a structured wiring network within rooms of the premises.

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

This amendment is accompanied by a petition for a one-month extension of time. Please charge the fee associated with such extension to Deposit Order Account number 501581.

Please charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayments associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,



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